EIS000805

7924 Magnolia Glen Ave.
Las Vegas, NV 89128

[redacted]

January 12, 2000

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Wendy Dixon, EIS Manager
Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
U.S. Department of Energy M/S 010
P.O. Box 30307
North Las Vegas, NV 89036-0307

Dear Wendy Dixon

I request that these comments be made a part of the official record:

1 Humans left Africa in their present form, and have walked the earth, for 140,000 years.

Humans have inhabited North American for only 10,000 years.

Half-life refers to the time radioactive isotopes take to become 1/2 as lethal. Radioactive Plutonium-239 has a half-life of 24,400 years. It is dangerous for 10 half-lives, or a quarter of a million years. It decays to Uranium-235 with a half-life of 710,000 years. It remains dangerous for 7.1 million years. Radiation hazards (lethality, mutations, cancer) from high level radioactive wastes **are absolutely certain** to continue for tens of millions of years.

To bury these high-level wastes in a hole considered possibly safe for 10,000 years (the time span specified in the EIS), addresses the problem for only 1/1000th of its duration. Please state how these lethal radioactive wastes can be monitored and contained out of the biosphere for the remaining 990,000 years.

To address the problem for only the next 50 generations presumes humans to be extinct from Southern Nevada in 10,000 years. If the first natives in North America only specified a healthy environment for 10,000 years, our time would be up.

2 Only above ground containment, observation, and repackaging can assure indefinite (one million year plus) protection. Burying these radioactive wastes shows a lack of appreciation for the scale of time that needs to be addressed, and a "out of sight, out of mind" disregard for the future of mankind.

Sincerely,

G Horsley

George M. Horsley
george.horsley@lvcm.com

Member: Sierra Club, Las Vegas Mountaineers Club, Union of Concerned Scientists

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